

J. MINERAL RESOURCES

In any urban development it is important that land use decisions be made with full recognition of the natural resources of the area. Depending on the region, these natural resources can include geologic deposits of moderate to high value minerals used in manufacturing processes and in the production of construction materials. Aggregate (crushed rock) and limestone used in concrete production are examples of common extractable mineral resources. The past several decades of urban expansion in Southern California have reduced or restricted access to significant mineral resources, resulting in a net loss of potential resources.

REGULATIONS, APPROVALS, AND PERMITS APPLICABLE TO MINERAL RESOURCES

To limit new development in areas containing significant mineral deposits, the California State Legislature enacted the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) in 1975. SMARA calls for the state geologist to classify the lands within California based on mineral resource availability. Although California has a wide range of mineral commodities, it was recognized that construction materials like sand, gravel and crushed stone produced regionally are used in every urban area of the state, and require special classification data. The California Division of Mines and Geology (CDMG) has classified urbanizing lands according to the presence or absence of significant sand, gravel, or stone deposits that are suitable as sources of aggregate (CDMG, 1988). These areas, called Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ), are described below:

- SZ – Scientific Resource area containing unique or rare occurrences of rocks, minerals, or fossils that are of outstanding scientific significance.
- MRZ-1 – Mineral Resource Zone where adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present or likely to be present.
- MRZ-2 – Mineral Resource Zone where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present, or there is a high likelihood for their presence and development should be controlled.
- MRZ-3 – Mineral Resource Zone where the significance of mineral deposits cannot be determined from the available data.
- MRZ-4 – Mineral Resource Zone where there is insufficient data to assign any other MRZ designation.

The project area includes several areas designated as MRZ-2, predominantly in the eastern San Fernando Valley and along the San Gabriel, Los Angeles, and Santa Ana Rivers. Most of the urban/developed areas throughout Southern California where implementation of FIG technology is primarily proposed are located in designated MRZ-1 areas.

The classification system is intended to ensure that through appropriate lead agency policies and procedures, mineral deposits of statewide or regional significance are considered in agency decisions. Each lead agency develops and adopts mineral resource management policies to incorporate into its planning policies, based on the mineral classification data provided. Most of the comprehensive mineral resource mapping in California has been completed for urban areas where there is a high probability that converted land uses would be incompatible with mining.

IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>		<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
MINERAL RESOURCES—Would the project:					
a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b)	Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

APPROACH TO ANALYSIS

This impact analysis focused on the potential effects of the proposed project that could limit access to or extraction of significant mineral resources in the area.

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

The determination of impacts of the proposed project is based on criteria *a* and *b* in the CEQA environmental checklist.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- a. Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource classified MRZ-2 by the State Geologist that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?*
- b. Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?*

The developed portions of the project area are typically located within areas designated as MRZ-1, indicating that no significant mineral deposits are present or likely to be present. As this is primarily where implementation of FIG technology would occur, no significant mineral

deposits would be directly impacted. In addition, the proposed project involves conduit installation within existing natural gas pipelines where surface disturbance would occur in location where previous excavations would have already occurred for placement of the utility. Additionally, the existing natural gas pipelines would be located within utility rights of way most commonly found in roadways, which would not be available for surface mining in any case. Therefore, the implementation of FIG technology would not reduce the availability of any minerals that could be of value to the region or state.

There are no operational mineral resource recovery sites within identified pipeline access points whose operations or accessibility would be affected by the installation of the project components.